

CLASSIFICATION

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Merseburg

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT

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REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1X

SOURCE

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1. On 21 and 22 April 1953, the troops from the Flak Kaserne in Merseburg departed for the summer camp, leaving a rear detail of about 50 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets at the installation. Sedan

On 17 April, a train with 28 rocket launchers with long sliding rails stood at the Merseburg railroad station.² On 21 April, 2 trains carrying a total of 12 x 100-mm AT guns and 18 to 24 57-mm AT guns passed through the railroad stations of Merseburg and Leuna, coming from the direction of Halle.² Five trains with artillery pieces were said to have passed through Weissenfels toward Erfurt during the night of 21 April.² On 25 April, 28 rocket launchers with long sliding rails and covered numbers were detained at the Jueterbog railroad station, after they had come from the direction of Wittenberg.³

2. Between 19 and 22 April, the troops from the Flak Kaserne in Merseburg were loaded, taking along all their belongings including propaganda material, sporting equipment, gasoline barrels, gasoline cans, practice targets, articles of clothing and food ration supply. The residents therefore concluded that the troops would not return and that the Flak Kaserne will be occupied by KVP.¹

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Comment. The transfer of the 76th Artv Brig (US) of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps has also been confirmed by . The destination of the unit could not be determined. Last year, the brigade had moved to Kindel. The information transmitted in paragraph 2 tends to indicate that the brigade will not return to the installation.

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25X1A2. Comment. Presumably, shipments of the 21st Gds Mecz Div from Halle to Lossa.

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See

25X1A3. Comment. It is not assumed that the rocket launchers are connected with those seen in Merseburg on 17 April. The observations may refer to the 439th (?) Gds RL Bn of the 6th Gds Tank Div from Wittenberg or to an equipment shipment to the rocket launcher repair shop of the GDFG in the former agricultural school in Jueterbog. It is of interest that the number of guns reported with rocket launcher shipments of rocket launcher battalions of the divisions seen this spring are considerably higher than those previously reported. See . This observation so far applies to one mechanized division and two tank divisions.

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